

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 9 and 23 have been amended and claims 28-42 have been canceled; claims 1-27 remain pending.

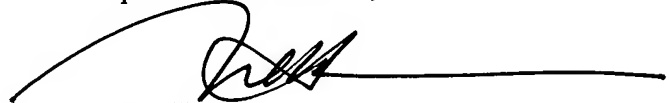
Proper priority and reference information has also been added as described above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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